

Tarpon Springs Rotary News

Volume 96, Number 7

Service Above Self

January 2023



Rtn. Kathy, Jim brave freeze for Icelandic fun

A new feature begins this month. So many club members "wander" the world, the newsletter will track them with a column entitled "Ramblin' Rotarians."

The column asks the RCTS members traveling to write up their adventure and supply photos.

Other members may vicariously enjoy the travel; they may even find an adventure they would like to undertake.

Next month's ramblers are Rtns. Jean and Jerry Coleman. They will be in the Feb.-April edition due to the editor's malfeasance. A combined edition will appear in May.

Dates to note:

Jan. 26	No meeting
Feb. 2	Assembly
Feb. 4	Boat Family
Feb. 9	Getting Happy Day
Feb/ 16	TS Library
Feb. 18	Car Show
Feb. 23	No meeting



Frigid Iceland welcomes RCTS member Kath Monahan and husband Jim McNeely arrive in Iceland. They looked to escape the "frigid" 40-degree earlier in Tarpon Springs, but they may have overshot.

PETS trains

Presidents elect, others get information critical for success

Over 120 presidents elect attended the district resident elect training session in Orlando.

They were joined by president elect nominees, membership chairs and foundation chairs.

District Governor Elect Chris Casella and his team were full of energy, and spent a great deal of time preparing for this training.

Foundation classes were focused on reminding members what the foundation does, creating a culture of giving and in-

spiring members to become major donors.

Membership training talked about attraction and engagement, building and nurturing relationships with all members and current technical tools to help.

President elects training focused on creating a club culture that is fun while running effective meetings.

A panel of past district governors, assistant governors and future governors answered questions and gave advice.

Newsletter hiatus

March and April's newsletter will be combined with the May newsletter.

The club's editor will be out of country and will not have access to the internet to compile the March and April newsletter. Publication will resume in May.

The training was excellent, and officers encourage more members go to training that is offered by the district.

No matter how long a mem-

ber has been a Rotarian, that member will learn something new.



Photos by J. David

PE Donna Pentrack and Past Pres. Robin Wikle attended this year's PETS.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Sue Carson, President

January is Rotary's Vocational Service Month. Vocational Service helps us to nurture more responsible, sustainable and prosperous communities.

It calls on us to empower others by using our unique skills and expertise to address community needs and help others discover new professional opportunities and interests.

The concept of service is rooted in the second "Object of Rotary", which calls on Rotarians to encourage and foster:

- High Ethical Standards in business and professions
- The recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations
- The dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society

Our Service project this month was to assist and participate in the Martin Luther King Day activities in Tarpon Springs. More than 100 people gathered at the Methodist Church for breakfast to begin the day's celebration. Rtns. Milton Smith and Ron Haddad led the effort.

Thank you to all members who participated in the breakfast and the parade.

Officers

President	Sue Carson
President Elect	D. Pentrack
Vice President	Tekoa Bean
Pres Elect Nom	OPEN
Sgt. At Arms	Celia Dubey
Past President	Robin Wikle
Secretary	Valerie Cullu
Treasurer	Julie Russell

Board

R. Lundahl	Rea Sieber
W. Wikle	Ed Hoffman
M. Koulianos	Milton Smith
K. Gallagher	Tom Trask

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Clifford M. Brock, Editor*

Board agenda full, but routine, pres.

The board dealt with a variety of topics for its January meeting.

The Triathlon is tentatively scheduled for Sept. 30 just waiting for final city approval.

The Cornhole Tournament is April 1 at the Boys & Girls Club in Tarpon Springs.

These are our two major fundraisers.

We will be sponsoring a breakfast for First Responders on Friday, Feb. 3 at IHOP at 8

am. Our service project for the month of February is the First Responder's Car Show in downtown Tarpon on Saturday, Feb. 18.

We will sponsor two students to S4TL this year.

Our Strategic Planning Committee is meeting on January 31, 2023 and are close to finalizing our Plan.

The District Scholarship is on one year hiatus, but we are gearing up for our local scholar-

ships donations.

Boating Family is doing a fishing trip on Feb. 4 and an Adult Boating trip on March 11.

Global Grants, the Harold Haftel project and Peace 4 Tarpon are continuing to be researched.

We are in need of an executive secretary if anyone knows of someone who might be interested in a part time job.

Our next meeting will be Feb. 16 at IHOP at 7:30 am.

Spiegel joins club again

The club got a new member at the meeting.

Actually, it got back a previous member. New member



Rtn. Colleen

Colleen Spiegel was initiated. Rtn. Colleen became a member a couple of years ago. "I had just started my business," she

said. "About the time I started the business, my husband was diagnosed with cancer."

She discovered two days later she that she was pregnant.

Nothing bode well then for her participation in Rotary.

"My business is settled now," she told the club. So, the time was right for the Ph.D.-trained engineer to re-join the club.

She also holds a master's degree in chemical engineering.

With 20 years' experience in engineering and mathematical modeling. Her research areas are fuel cell, alternative energy and manufacturing.

Her business is thriving, so she is ready to make a contribution. She came (back) to the right place for her energy and talents to be utilized.

Donna Pentrack is Rtn. Colleen's sponsor.

Ramblin' Rotarians

Pair accepts cold for adventure

By Kathy Monahan

In 1975 I took a course in Old Norse—the language of the Vikings—at the University of Pittsburgh. The goal of the course was to read *Egil's Saga* in its original language, which is almost identical to present day Icelandic.

Because of this, today's Icelanders are able to read their 10th century literature as it was originally written down from the island's extensive oral tradition of storytelling and history. In conjunction with learning Old Norse, I studied independently with a young Icelander named Gudrun, whose grandmother could recite her direct lineage to *Egil of Egil's Saga*.

This cohesive culture has since intrigued me, and, together with Jim's love of traveling, meeting interesting people and photographing unique environments, we had our motivation, and set our sights on Iceland.

Our long awaited six-night Icelandic adventure started Sept. 17, 2022, with a red-eye Icelandair flight out of Orlando, a screaming baby in front of us all the way.

A shuttle awaited us at the airport and deposited us at Hotel Klettur, a friendly mid-range hotel within walking distance to Reykjavik Harbor and downtown.

Tired but excited, we began our exploration of Iceland, which included wonderful fresh food, cultural treasures, unique geology, pristine natural resources, inclement weather (We were prepared.) and friendly Icelanders.



Miscreants chastened in Iceland

By taking tours we were able to see geysers, glaciers and magnificent waterfalls.

At our favorite site, Black Sand Beach, we immersed ourselves in the incredible raw, natural beauty of Iceland's countryside, spotted throughout with sheep and the small Icelandic horses (not ponies).

Game of Thrones enthusiasts may recognize this impressive site. Just the size of Kentucky, Iceland produces almost 100 percent of its electricity from hydropower and geothermal power, while the glaciers supply the country with ample, pure water.

We found that so many of Iceland's cultural, and religious structures embody the essence of the island's natural beauty. Influences that we noted were those of the Black Sand Beach rock formations on the architecture of both the magnifi-

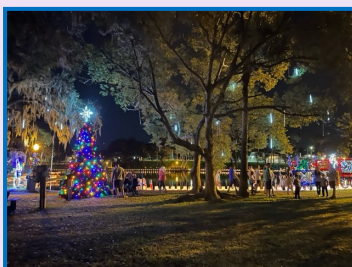
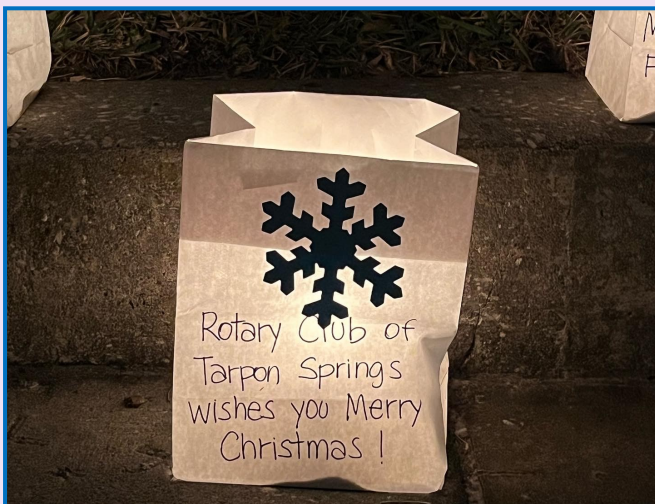
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Annual Cornhole Tournament to resume competition

Holiday lights illumine Spring Bayou edges

Each year, the middle school sells lambathes (*luminaria* in Spanish) as a fundraiser and as a way for local people to remember loved ones or commemorate events and memories.

Thousands of local and visitors walk the bayou to enjoy the light show and read the messages. RCTS extended its season's greetings with its own lambatha.



TOP: Holiday cheer delights walkers as they circle the bayou.

MIDDLE: RCTS extends holiday wishes

BOTTOM: Craig Park alight with lights

Rotary Club of Tarpon Springs

SPRING FLING

CORNHOLE

TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY APRIL 1
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
111 W. LIME ST, TARPON SPRINGS

CHECK-IN BEGINS AT 11:00
TOURNAMENT STARTS AT NOON
\$50 PER TEAM TO ENTER

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFITTING
THE YOUTH OF TARPON SPRINGS
PRIZES AWARDED TO TOP TEAMS

FOOD * DRINK * ADULT BEVERAGES * PRIZES * SILENT AUCTION

Rotary
Club of Tarpon Springs

REGISTER ONLINE BY MARCH 29, 2023
tarponspringsrotary.com/springfling

No outside food or drink is permitted.

First responders recognize club

RCTS was honored for their continued support of All First Responders Matter Jan. 20, at an Appreciation Dinner at Ozona Blue.

President Elect Nominee Milton Smith heads up the organization that is dedicated to encourage and inspire the men and women in fire, EMS, and law enforcement during their career and beyond.

The dinner was attended by over 40 chaplains, sponsors and volunteers,

RCTS will sponsor a breakfast at IHOP in Tarpon Springs Feb 3 and assist the group with their Car Show on Feb. 18 in downtown Tarpon.



Local first responders recognized RCTS for its support of the group Jan. 20

Wrap Up, January 19

Rambers' had so much fun section expanded



(Continued from page 2)

cent Hallgrímskirkja Church and the world class Harpa Concert Hall, which looks as if it were made of delicate, shimmering ice crystals.

Icelandic sculpture is curious.

We were pleasantly surprised by the tastiness and high quality of the food. Tiny lobsters, imaginatively prepared salmon, local beers and of course, fresh Icelandic water were easily available.

We frequented a small, elegant food court that offered a variety of cuisines, from *haute* to food truck style Mexican. And pizza too.

Aside from fresh seafood, Iceland is famous for its hot dogs.

Yes.

The best.

Former president Bill Clinton made one such establishment famous by indulging in this local favorite. One unexpected delight

for me was eating ice cream that combined chocolate and licorice flavors.

Delicious.

We managed to squeeze in many activities through mostly misty grey days, including an uneventful whale watching boat ride, an excellent hop-on hop-off bus ride through Reykjavik, museum visits and city street explorations.

A highlight was visiting the 1986 Reykjavik Summit site, where President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev agreed that nuclear weapons must be eliminated.

Friendly people visiting from all over the world were everywhere, and outgoing, helpful Icelanders made us feel welcome, and want to return. Natural beauty, a nearly 100 percent literacy rate, a vibrant arts scene, a cosmopolitan capital, culinary delights and a compelling history.

We may return.



Rotary Leadership Institute
building a better Rotary through education

A successful Rotary Club is best maintained by enhancing members' leadership skills and Rotary knowledge taught at our next RLI

Saturday
February 18, 2023
Breakfast and Sign-In 7:00 – 7:45am
Classes 8:00am to 3:00pm

College of Central Florida
3800 S. Lecanto Hwy
Lecanto, FL 34461

GRADUATE COURSE – FOUNDATION
\$100.00 Fee per Rotarian
for class registration, course material notebook, breakfast, lunch, facility fees and course completion certificate

Some clubs subsidize this expense. Ask your club leadership for details.

At RLI, you will share discussions with newer members starting their Rotary journey as well as members of many years looking to expand their Rotary knowledge. You will learn the different perspectives of Rotarians from around our District. And you will have time for networking with those same Rotarians. Remember, discussion group size is limited and registration closes on Tuesday, February 14, 2023. Register today!

Analyzing Your Rotary Club, Service Projects, Strategic Planning, Rotary Opportunities, Effective Leadership Strategies, Senior Project Grants, and the History of Rotary are just some of the interesting topics discussed. Plus a special Graduate Class will focus on Membership a timely and timely course available to all RLI Part 3 Graduates.

Join us for "In-Person" RLI...
Saturday, Feb. 18, 2023 Lecanto
6600 N. Director P.O. James Mack
at 727-642-8041 or PDGJMCK@950@gmail.com

For more information, contact District 6600 N. Director P.O. James Mack at 727-642-8041 or PDGJMCK@950@gmail.com






RLI Registering Is Easy As

- 1 Simply go to the RLI website www.rlirotary.org
- 2 Tap on "Course Information" and then click the "Course Schedule" dropdown tab
- 3 Scroll to the date you want to attend, click on "More Info" and follow the prompts











Wrap Up, January 19

Brocks provide update on Florida, national ed



The program was RCTS' own Cliff and Mid had the program for the meeting. The retired professor pair discussed the state of education in Florida. Rtn. Mid used her background

as a sociologist and demographer to outline demographic shifts impacting education in the sunshine state. Rtn. Cliff offered number of anecdotes from his teaching years.



Dr. Roosevelt Romelus outlines progress on his hospital project in his village.

Long time Rotarians Cliff and Mid Brock outlined the state of education in Florida and the country for members.

Both are retired professors and administrators. Rtn. Mid is a sociologist, and Rtn. Cliff's background is in journalism and advertising.

They shared statistics showing that Florida's graduation success is climbing but still not high enough.

"We have long believed that education pays," Rtn. Mid said. "The return on investment is very high when the state invests in education."

The pair said violence in the schools is still too high, but

has not risen, nor fallen substantially in the last decade.

More women are educating themselves than in previous year. The Brocks shared that nearly 60 percent of college enrollment is now female.

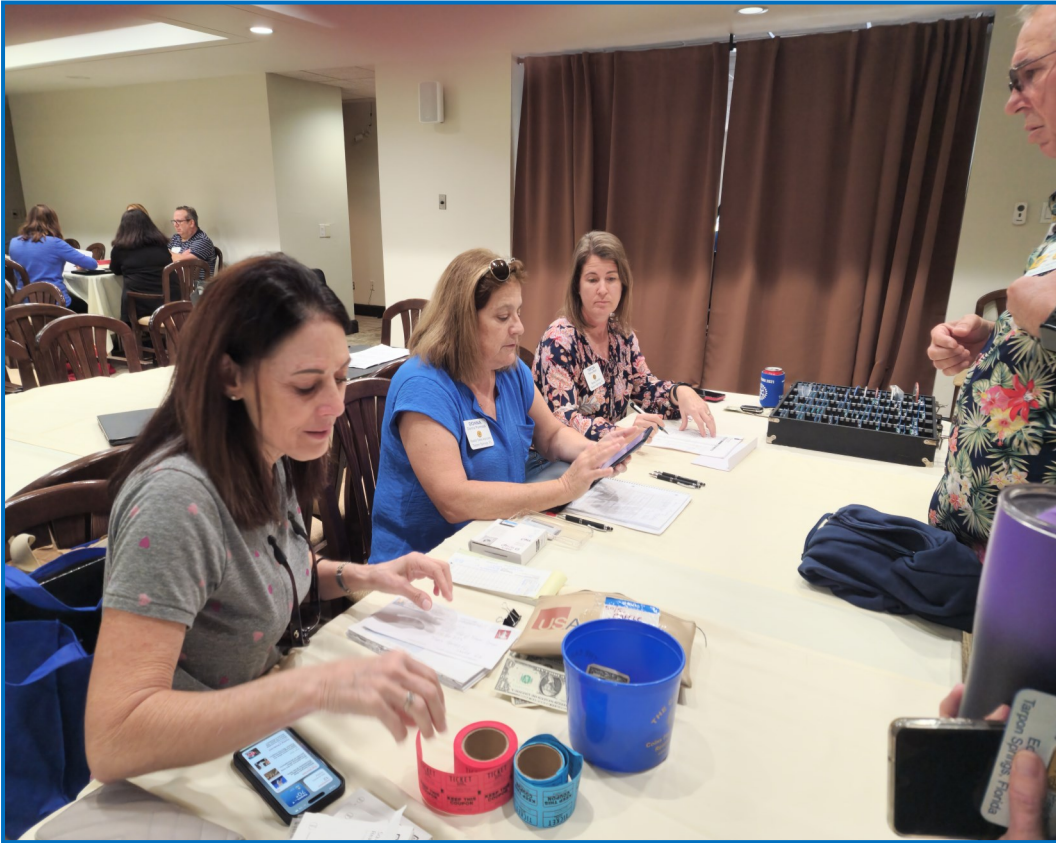
"We are doing better with our kids," Rtn. Cliff said. "But we have a brewing crisis with young, black males." Black females are attending university at a record rate; black males are not.

"All the research shows a positive impact with educational attainment," Cliff said.

Males in general are not training for the 21st Century economy."

Wrap Up, January 12

Sustainability coordinator outlines city's future plans



ABOVE: City of Tarpon Springs Sustainability Coordinator Robin Rives
LEFT: Rtns. J. Russel, D. Pentrack and T. Bean work table to check in members and sell 50/50 drawing tickets. They had extra work today as nearly 60 Rotarians and guests attended the first meeting of the new calendar year.

Global Scholar

Blocker shares Africa study, research program



After a delay caused by the pandemic, District 6800 Global Scholar Abby Blocker began her masters degree study at the University of Cape Town in South Africa.

Coincidentally, a group of RCTS members had planned a trip to the country for a safari. Nearly three years later both efforts were underway.

When Abby came home to Inverness to be with her family for Christmas, she was the program for the Inverness club. The RCTS members travelled to meet the young scholar.

This young woman has compiled an impressive record earning a bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering in 2021.

Rotarians welcoming Abby home include Ron Haddad, (new member) Patricia Haddad, Ernie Colquette, Mid Brock and Cliff Brock. Olga Clayton attended with Rtn. Ernie.

The RCTS group will attend a meeting of the Claremont Rotary Club, Abby's host club in Cape Town, next month.



ABOVE: PDG Eloy Nunez
LEFT: District 6800 Global Scholar Abby Blocker

Members celebrate MLK Day, breakfast

Nearly a dozen RCTS members joined community members to celebrate Martin Luther King Day.

Each year, celebrants meet at the Methodist Church for breakfast and then process through town in a parade to honor the late civil rights icon.

This year's speaker was Edie Darling, an Ambassador of Peace awardee.

Public Schools Commissioner Eileen Long introduced the keynoter.

Darling is the author of "The Time is Now" and a noted speaker.

Quoting King, she aroused the audience to rise and become active in the freedom movement.

Nearly 100 people gathered for the 8 a.m. breakfast and 10 a.m. parade.

City and county officials were on hand to recognize King.

Music, laughter, King's words and fellowship marked the morning.

The event is planned by the

MLK Event and Scholarship Foundation. The foundation president, Rtn. Milton Smith, acknowledged those who had put in the hours for the program.

Rtn. Ron Haddad served to recognize attending dignitaries.

Other Rotarians included Ernie Colquette, Mid Brock, Tom Carson, Pres. Sue Carson, David Archie, Christine Davy and Cliff Brock.

RIGHT: Speaker Edie Darling directs preparation
RIGHT OUTSIDE: Salvation Army staff member and cook Kevin
RIGHT MIDDLE: Rtn. Ernie helps with serving line
LEFT: Even little ones joined in the festivities with Darling
BOTTOM: The hall at the Methodist Church rocks with joyous celebration.



Darling brings powerful MLK message

Edie Darling has dedicated nearly three decades of her life, serving in many multifaceted roles in the law enforcement field. Darling is formerly the Senior Chaplain in the Department of Detention and Corrections and is currently assigned as a Police Sergeant in the Patrol Operations Bureau.

Her commitment to people and the community extends outside the walls of law enforcement. Darling is an Author, Spiritual Leader, Motivational Speaker, true Humanitarian, and an Ambassador of Peace.



Edie Darling

Darling is also the founder of 3 is Enough a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and formally host of *Wake Up With Edie Darling*, a syndicated podcast, that awakens you to the awareness and knowledge that we are not alone on this journey called life.

This show strived to bridge the gap between community and law enforcement by proactively bringing the community, leaders, citizens, and law enforcement together at a round table of peace to address those issues that impact our communities negatively that impede the safety of all, inhibit investigations, and hamper police relations.

As a respected and sought-after spiritual leader, Darling's assignment (mission) transcends all religions, and resonating with people of all walks of life. Darling says inspires people through Faith, Hope

and Love that "motivates and encourages them to look beyond themselves and to humanity as a whole."

Her book titled: "The Time Is Now; Awaken Your Dormant Gifts" along with its Companion Workbook is a leader development tool that helps individuals find their truths and equally enables them to discover, own and boldly operate and abilities.

Darling is a recipient of the Key to the City of St. Petersburg.

She received the distinguished recognition as a First Lady in African American History by the Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American History Museum.

She also received extended gratitude from the City of Tampa Police Department for her outreach efforts that created a concept of unity addressing the impact and aftermath of COVID-19, the murder of George Floyd, and increased violent crimes within the city's most economically challenged communities.

To that end, what Darling initiated has become an ongoing collaborative relationship between community and law enforcement.

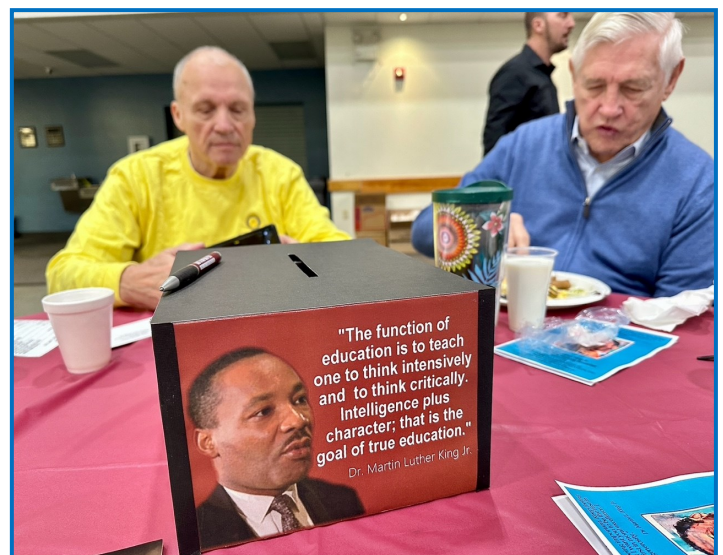
In addition, Darling has received numerous letters from elected officials and community leaders nominating her to the President of the United States to be appointed as a United States International Ambassador at Large – Ambassador of Peace.

Darling says she, "finds her greatest joy when she stands" alongside her husband, Chris Guay, their five children, nine grandchildren, family and dear friends.



ABOVE: Rtn. Patricia Haddad captures moment with MLK speaker Edie Darling

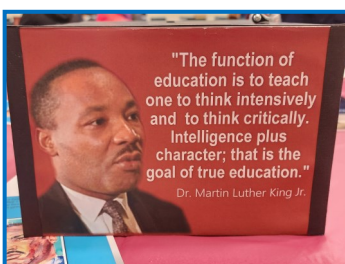
RIGHT: Parade marchers brave cold to celebrate
BOTTOM: Rtns. Cliff and Ernie enjoy breakfast after working
with others to serve nearly 100 breakfasts on Martin Luther
King Day celebration at the Methodist Church
BELOW LEFT: Following breakfast, participants moved outside to brave cool weather and march in honor of MLK



Parade rocks on to honor civil rights king



ABOVE: RCTS is well represented at the MLK memorial parade. L to R: Christine Davy, Tom Carson, Pres. Sue Carson, Rea Sieber, Jan Causey, Patricia Haddad
RIGHT: Rotary Club of Tarpon Springs is always about young people. Club members always turn in force to support our youth.



Submit newsletter information to: newsletter4294@outlook.com

Rotary projects spans globe, impact felt

By Brad Webber

United States

Worldwide, only 17 percent of electronic waste and less than 5 percent of devices containing lithium ion batteries are recycled,

North America

even though their chemical elements offer a "cycle of nearly infinite recyclability," according to Redwood Materials.

Since early 2022, more than a dozen Rotary clubs across the United States have collaborated with the Nevada-based battery recycler to host collection drives, yielding tens of thousands of pounds of cell phones, laptops, power drills, electric toothbrushes and more.

"This is a turnkey project," says Clari Nolet of the Rotary Club of Los Altos, Calif., a board member of the *Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group*.

"You clean out your junk drawer, address U.S. supply chain security and environmental issues, and assist in the adoption of electric cars."

Sept. 17, volunteers from the Rotary clubs of Oakville, Oakville-West and Oakville Trafalgar, Ontario, packed more than 1,000 bags of barley bound for St. Vincent and the Grenadines, a Caribbean country recovering from a series of natural disasters.

Rotary members emptied sacks of barley into bins, manually weighed the grains into 1-pound bags, and boxed them.

Normally "it takes two shifts of five full-time people to accomplish what we did in three hours," says Sundeep Khosla, an Oakville club member.

His club has made a commitment to monthly shifts at the warehouse, run by *Glob-alMedic*, a charity focused on rapid response to disasters worldwide.

Portugal

Charity walks are a staple of Rotary fundraising, but the Rotary Club of Silves stepped up the effort.

Its members tackled a 75-mile portion of the Way of St. James (the Caminho de Santiago in Portuguese) during a six-day journey along the route



from Valença, Portugal, to the grand Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Spain. The club used social media for fundraising and sharing dispatches from the route as seven Rotarians and three of their friends set off on Sept. 23.

By the end of the trek, the group had raised about \$14,000 to help fund a sensory room and garden for children with autism or Down syndrome at the Silves Sul school in Armção de Pêra.

The schoolchildren tracked the pilgrims' progress online. They also gave the walkers toys for "constant encouragement" and to serve as school mascots they could cheer for, says Pam Winn, one of the walkers.

Kosovo

The Rotary Club of Peja dedicated a 9/11 memorial, dubbed "Memory and Friendship," in the city on the 21st anniversary of the attacks. The club, its members, local businesses, and individuals offered financial and in-kind contributions valued at more than

\$30,000 for the project.

"But the real value of the memorial is immeasurable," says Club President Arbër Asllani.

"Searching for such memorials globally, we found that none of them is in southeast Europe."

The idea was first suggested by Nehat Devolli, a club member and businessman.

The centerpiece — a steel beam from the ruins of the twin towers donated by the New York City Fire Department — was a must, according to Asllani.

"New York City is almost 7,400 km. away from Peja," Asllani said in his address at the dedication ceremony, "but on that particular day, Sept. 11, it felt closer because tragedy unites people."

TOP RIGHT: Nevada battery recycler helps save Earth's resources with help from 17 clubs nationally
LOWER RIGHT: Volunteers bag food in quantity